



God With You, In Everything You Do

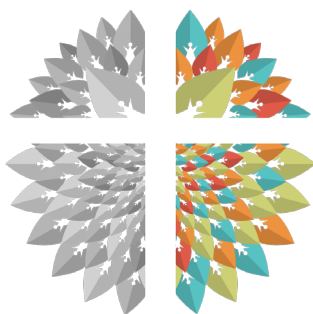
Genesis 21:22-34

English Services
(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Worship through Giving
Testimony
Scripture Reading
Anthem
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Benediction

Filipino Service
(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Patotoo
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Natatanging Bilang
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Sam Rendal
Pangwakas na Panalangin
at Basbas



GENESIS
Grace from the Beginning

28/29 April 2018
Vol. 40, No. 16

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



God With You, In Everything You Do

Today's Message (28/29 April 2018) /
Genesis 21:22-34

ABRAHAM
WORSHIPED GOD AS
HE REALIZED THAT,
WHILE HE CANNOT
LIVE LONG ENOUGH
TO SEE THE
ENTIRETY OF THE
FULFILMENT OF
THE PROMISE, THE
ETERNAL GOD WILL
SEE IT THROUGH TO
COMPLETION.

Abimelech, still smarting from Abraham and Sarah's duplicity, with vivid memories of God warning him in a scary dream, realizes that God is truly on Abraham's side. This leads him to ask for long-term peace with Abraham, who uses the opportunity to make a mutually beneficial relationship commence between them.

Believers unashamed of their faith, whether they like it or not, will live their lives under the watchful eyes of a critical world, ready to pounce on them and throw their favorite stones, like "self-righteous," "all-knowing," "hypocrite," etc. How do you recover from those incidents that unfortunately give them reason to throw those "stones"?

We find the answer to that question as we learn about God and His work in molding a servant named Abraham:

1. GOD IS GLORIFIED IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER WHO KEEPS ON WALKING WITH GOD DESPITE HIS FAILURES (VV. 22-24).

- a. God's faithfulness was acknowledged by Abimelech: "God is with you..."
- b. Abraham's failure was alluded to by Abimelech: "swear to me...that you will not deal falsely with me..."

We were never spared the gory details of Abraham's failures—lying, wavering faith, failure to lead Sarah, unbelief, and so on. And yet the one thing you could never say about him is that he quit on God or his faith. What matters to God is that you rise where you fell and keep going on in your faith. God's faithfulness and your obedience will eventually make people also say of you: "God is with you in everything you do!"

Traditional Service (Saturday, 6 p.m.)

- Prelude
- Call to Worship
- Worship through Praise
- Worship through Giving
- Worship in Music
- Doxology
- Worship through Fellowship
- Scripture Reading
- Preparatory Hymn
- Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
- Response Hymn
- Benediction

There will be no Traditional Service on May 12, 2018. Please be guided accordingly.



God With You, In Everything You Do

Today's Message (28/29 April 2018) /
Genesis 21:22-34

2. "WHEN A MAN'S WAYS ARE PLEASING TO THE LORD, HE MAKES EVEN HIS ENEMIES LIVE AT PEACE WITH HIM" - PROVERBS 16:7 (VV. 25-32).

- a. Abraham made a treaty with Abimelech through a blood covenant, the most binding of all covenants (vv. 25-27). This involved three elements: a sacrifice (v. 27), witnesses (vv. 28-30), and promises (vv. 31-32). You find these same elements in God's blood covenant with us through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:1-18).
- b. Having granted Abimelech's request, Abraham took the opportunity to correct a lingering offense against him (vv. 28-32). Abraham's handling of this offense illustrates the crucial first step in handling interpersonal issues: one-on-one confrontation in a factual, non-adversarial way (Matthew 18:15).

3. SEEING THE HAND OF GOD AT WORK IN YOUR LIFE IS A LOUD AND CLEAR CALL TO WORSHIP GOD (VV. 33-34).

- a. Abraham planted a tree (a long term commitment) as he realized that God was beginning to fulfill His promise of providing land (Genesis 12:7) not just descendants.
- b. Abraham worshiped God as he realized that, while he cannot live long enough to see the entirety of the fulfilment of the Promise, the Eternal God will see it through to completion.

God teaches us about Himself through (among others) the splendor of nature, the power of the Spirit in changed lives and answered prayer, and the specific revelation of the Bible. Whenever and whatever you learn about Him, consider that God is speaking to you—then worship.

FINAL THOUGHTS

May it also be said of us, "God is with you." Though God is within every Christian as the Holy Spirit, may no one think He is absent in our lives by the way we live.

We are not called to be strange or weird, but simply to be positively different. This doesn't take much: random acts of kindness, normal courtesy, hospitality to others in "your territory," pursuing excellence in life and service—these have become so rare, as to reap praises on the few who still do them. Be one of the few!

As 1 Peter 3:15-16 reminds us, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander" ■

AUTHENTIC LOVE

God is a personal being. He can be known. As a person, we can have a real relationship with him. It can be often tough because we cannot see God, who is a Spirit Being. But the good news is He wants to be known. He displays His presence all of the time. He constantly pursues a reciprocal relationship with people.

Just like any of us, we want to be sought by a beloved simply for who we are. We don't appreciate being sought because of what we do, or what a beloved can get out of us. Same with God. His very nature is love. He wants us to seek him as someone truly beloved. He does not want us to treat Him like a servant, a genie, or a vending machine. Quite frankly, at times I struggle with seeking God simply for who He is—someone I love.

Perhaps you can relate. If you want meaningful insights and practical advice on how to grow in loving God, learn at the feet of Rev. Edmund Chan and his wife Ann. They are champions on the subject of intentional discipleship. Pastor Edmund, in his book *A Certain Kind*, speaks of abiding in Christ's love as fundamental to being a Christian. I agree. Growing in love with God is key to his design for life here on earth and beyond.

In two weeks, we will have the rare opportunity to hear Pastor Edmund and Ann Chan here in this very auditorium.

Don't miss this chance. Be engaged. Pray. Be there. If you are unable to come, you may still participate by sponsoring someone to go. Get tickets for your *oikos* (family and friends) to our "Loving God Discipleship Conference" (details at back page of this bulletin).

WETFOOT IN JAPAN

'Harvest', GCF's evangelistic singing team, is going to Japan on a short-term mission trip (June 26 to July 10, 2018). This is under our 'Wetfoot' short-term mission program. They will be hosted by the mission organization World Venture, where our very own missionary, Ken Taylor, is serving. Harvest will be assisting Pastor Ken with the different choirs he leads. Harvest's mission culminates in a grand concert in July, and we are expectant as to how God will use Harvest while in Japan and at the same time excited to hear their personal testimonies upon their return home. We encourage your Growth Groups to contact, partner, and journey with Harvest—before, during, and after this trip. For those led by God to support with financial gifts, please course them through GCF and designate it to "Wetfoot-Harvest." If you need more information, the Harvest team will be at their booth at the lobby after the service. You are welcome to be there simply to encourage the team with a quick prayer ■

Ablaze Devotional

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

- Psalm 105:1-2

Looking at the history of Scripture, we find that these writings were originally read in front of a congregation. Scripture was meant to be listened to and to be responded to, not as individuals, but as a community. It is both a recalling of what God has done for His people. It is a calling to proclaim His deeds among the people—with each other, and to those who have yet to know Him. As we personally experience God's goodness in our lives, we are called to share this good to others. "What you hear in a whisper, proclaim on the housetops" (*Matthew 10:27*).

As we continue to celebrate and pursue God's mission, may we always search for the Lord and His strength. Let us ask God to open our hearts, minds, and hands to receive His mission for our families, our community, our church, and our country. May we always retell and share His goodness wherever and whoever He sends us to.

Let us pray for a missional heart upon each GCFer, as we learn how to be good stewards and partners with our missionaries. Let us seek how we can participate in the ministries of Harvest, as well as MCare. May we not just be a sending church, but also a welcoming church who fosters and takes care of our missionaries, not just in their financial needs, but also with emotional and spiritual support. One thing about sending out is being with them through their struggles, being the embodiment of the friendship and fellowship that God gives ■

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



TO-DO: MANAGING LIFE PRIORITIES

YA Talk 2, presented by the Young Adults Ministry and featuring Kuya Aleks Tan

May 5 (Sat.), at the Youth Center, 2-4 p.m.

You may pre-register at the info booth or contact **0917 532 7741** to pre-register/for more info



BASKETBALL CLINIC WITH COACH NORMAN BLACK

For kids 7-16 years old

May 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 and 26, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Only 50 slots available | Reg. fee: PhP 1,500.00 inclusive of free basketball and free shirt

Contact **0908 888 1431** to register/for more info



SHIPWRECKED: RESCUED BY JESUS

GCF Daily Vacation Bible School (DVBS) 2018

May 28 to June 2 (Mon.-Sat.), 8 a.m. to 12 noon here at GCF | **For kids ages 3-12**

Registration is online: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/dvbsshipwrecked2018>



CAMP LIVE: VERIFIED

at the Batangas Country Club

HS: May 31-June 3 | College: July 19-22

Visit the Youth L.I.V.E. Camp booth for more info

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

April 2018

	April Budget	Received, Apr. 1-26
General	7,659,315	6,065,296
Missions	927,000	1,141,059
	Jan. - Apr. Budget	Received, Jan. - Apr.
General	36,611,426	27,311,300
Missions	3,759,967	3,482,052

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to our God for His grace and mercy by an anonymous donor, the Basilad family, the Valera family, and the Messiah College.

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.



**This May 2018,
know what it means
to love God
with your
total self.**

**Who are Rev. Edmund
and Ann Chan?**

The husband and wife team of Edmund and Ann founded and currently lead the Global Alliance of Intentional Disciple-Making Churches (IDMC), which is based in Singapore. This alliance champions best practices in intentional disciple-making.

**Unlock
the door to
abundant living
promised by
Christ.**

This coming May 11 and 12, join us in learning the wonderful journey towards the foundation of discipleship—love for God.

As part of our year-long 40th anniversary celebration, we invited Rev. Edmund and Ann Chan to be speakers in **Loving God: A Discipleship Conference.**

We believe that foundational to our discipleship journey, and to the full life Jesus promised, is our own love for God, and Edmund and Ann will talk about loving God with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength. They have commendably served their

local church in Singapore, and has blessed the global church, including GCF in the past years, with their experience and wisdom, and will do so again in this upcoming conference.

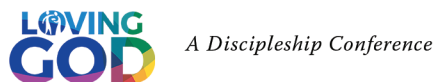
Conference Dates:

May 11, Friday (6:00 to 9:00 p.m.) to
May 12, Saturday (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Ticket Prices:

800.00 pesos (live, in-person)
400.00 pesos (live, video feed only)
*Lunch is **not** included.*

Only limited seats are available, and we encourage GCFers to avail of the Auditorium B seats (live, in-person). Please get your tickets as soon as possible—first come, first served! Don't miss this rare opportunity!



How may we
SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____
Age: ____ Landline no.: _____
Mobile no.: _____
Address: _____

E-mail: _____
Year of membership: _____
Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

Today is 28/29 April 2018, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory” *(Isaiah 6:3)*. **He requires holiness of us as well:** “Be holy, for I am holy” *(1 Peter 1:16)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” *(Romans 3:23)*.
Sin demands a penalty: “For the wages of sin is death” *(Romans 6:23)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” *(Romans 5:8)*. **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God” *(1 Peter 3:18)*. **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them” *(2 Corinthians 5:18)*.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” *(Romans 10:9)*.

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.